

REMARKS

Claims 14-32 are in the application. They replace claims 1-13 which have been deleted.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the specification has been amended to provide appropriate headings.

The claims have been rewritten to conform to U.S. claim practice.

The present invention relates to a method and a device for producing a large-volume container of thermoplastic material which is cup-shaped or tub-shaped. This means, as can be easily seen in the Figures of the drawing, the area of the opening of the container is very large; specifically the area of the opening is approximately equal to the cross-sectional area of the container. This feature has been added to independent claims 14, 19 and 26. In order to produce the large cup-shaped or tub-shaped opening of the container by blow molding plastic material, the present invention provides that in a first step the pre-form is widened, and in a subsequent second step a core is moved from below into the widened pre-form. The outer surface of the core is then located opposite the end portion of the pre-form 6. This end portion is

then sealingly clamped against the core, so that the container and the opening are formed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed in the claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the references to Wasanabe, Akasawa et al., the Japanese reference '623 or Harrison, are respectfully requested.

The reference to Watanabe describes a method of blow molding in which two spreading elements 16 widen a pre-form in order to form certain wall sections of the pre-form with a greater wall thickness than other portions, as described in column 5, lines 1-15. The reference does not disclose or suggest the steps of initially widening a pre-form, subsequently moving a core into the widened pre-form, sealingly clamping the pre-form against the core, and forming a cup-shaped or tub-shaped opening of the container in the blow molding process.

The reference to Akasawa et al describes a method for manufacturing a large-volume component, wherein the method includes

moving spreading elements for moving the pre-form into the desired shape. The reference does not disclose or suggest the step of moving a core into the widened pre-form, sealing the pre-form and shaping a large opening of the container.

The Japanese reference is directed to a container manufactured by blow-molding, wherein the opening of the container which has the shape of a bottle is significantly smaller than the cross-sectional area of the container. In accordance with the reference, spreading elements are moved into the pre-form and are folded in order to form funnel-shaped side walls in the area of the opening. The opening is formed by means of a core, wherein the pre-form sealingly rests against the core. The reference does not disclose or suggest the method steps of initially moving the spreading elements into the pre-form, subsequently moving the core into the pre-form, and forming an opening in the form of a tub or cup, wherein the area of the opening is approximately equal to the cross-sectional area of the container.

The reference to Harrison is also directed to a method for forming a container whose opening is substantially smaller than the cross-sectional area of the container, as is the case in a bottle. Consequently, for the same reasons as set forth in connection with the Japanese reference, the reference to Harrison also does not

disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the references do not disclose or suggest the method and device as set forth in the claims of the present application.

Applicant has noted that the Examiner has indicated that original claims 2 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, however, applicant respectfully submits that, for the reasons set forth above, all of the claims in the application are allowable over the art of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

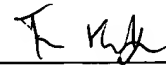
Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER

Dated: June 25, 2003

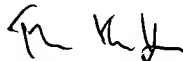
By



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